

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 10, 2009, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicants appreciate and thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 13-21 contain allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9-10, 14-15, 17-20, 22 and 30 are hereby amended. Claims 12-13, and 16 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No claims are hereby added. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 14-15, and 17-30 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the drawings. Figs. 1 and 2 have been corrected to obviate the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 7, 9, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 16 is now canceled and thus, the rejection with respect to this claim is now moot. Regarding claims 1, 7, 9, and 10, these claims have been amended to obviate the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 22, 23, 24, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over US Patent No. 6,691,842 to Lai ("Lai") in view of US Patent No. 5,080,204 to Bauer ("Bauer"); rejects claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lai in view of Bauer, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,607,186 to Voelkel ("Voelkel"); rejects claims 5, 9, 10, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lai in view of Bauer, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,531,299 to Bataille ("Bataille"); rejects claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lai in view of Bauer, and further in view of US Patent No. 5,277,281 to Carlson ("Carlson"); and rejects claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Lai in view of Bauer, Voelkel, Bataille, and Carlson. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 30 at least incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Claim 12 is canceled. Claims 2-11, 14-15, and 17-29 are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

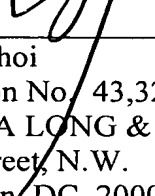
The foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 10, 2009

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